

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE -UNIVERSITY SERVICES CENTER
SPONSORED BY ACLS WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT COMING PRIMARILY FROM
FOUNDATIONS AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES (NEH),
THE UNIVERSITY SERVICES CENTER (USC) IN HONG KONG IS FACING SERIOUS
FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES. IF A PENDING APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM
NEH IS NOT APPROVED, THS USC DIRECTOR SAYS THEY MAY BE FORCED TO
CLOSE. THE CONGEN VIEWS THIS SITUATION WITH CONCERN. CLOSING OF
USC WOULD REDUCE GREATLY THE USEFULNESS OF HONG KONG AS A BASE FOR
FOREIGN SCHOLARS TO PURSUE RESEARCH AND STUDY OF CHINA. IT COULD
ALSO INCREASE CONSIDERABLY THE WORKLOAD
OF THE CAOS OFFICE.

THE VALUE OF USC HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE AMERICAN ACADEMIC
COMMUNITY. IN NOVEMBER OF 1973 THE CONFERENCE ON PRIORITIES FOR
FUNDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE STUDIES, HELD IN NEW YORK ON
THE INITIATIVE OF ACLS AND SSRC, DECIDED THAT USC, AS ONE OF
THREE FACILITIES CREATED TO SERVE THE FIELD OF CHINESE STUDIES
NATIONALLY, SHOULD BE GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY FOR CONTINUATION.
IN EXISTENCE FOR APPROXIMATELY 11 YEARS, USC PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING
SERVICES FOR MANY FOREIGN SCHOLARS, MOSTLY AMERICANS: VISA
SPONSORSHIP, WORKING SPACE, A LIBRARY OF BASIC REFERENCE WORKS
AND PERIODICALS, ACCESS TO MATERIALS AT THE UNION RESEARCH INSTITUTE,
LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS, SECRETARIAL AND OFFICE FACILITIES FOR
APPOINTMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE, COPYING SERVICE, AND ACADEMIC ADVICE

ACCORDING TO THE USC DIRECTOR, NEITHER OF THE TWO UNIVERSITIES IN
HONG KONG IS WILLING TO PROVIDE THE SERVICES NOW PROVIDED BY USC.
FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE UNIVERSITIES
TO JUSTIFY PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN SCHOLARS. THE STUDY OF
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MODERN CHINA ALSO INVOLVES POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES THAT THEY CANNOT

OVERLOOK.

THE POST SUGGESTS THAT CU DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH NEH IF
CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE.

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